

## **Honoring Mayor Oscar Cradle**

Congressional Record submission on behalf of Congressman Tom MacArthur (NJ-03)

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I rise to recognize a prominent leader in my district who has gone above and beyond to help better our community. That man is Mayor Oscar Cradle from South Toms River. Through his work and his life, Oscar has greatly improved our community for his neighbors, friends, and all those who are lucky enough to know him.

Mayor Cradle has been a resident of Ocean County for sixty years. Growing up in South Toms River, Oscar was a member of youth choir and Sunday school at Wells Chapel AME Church. After graduating from Toms River High School, he enrolled in Hampton Institute and studied mathematics. After facing issues with addiction, Oscar overcame his struggles and decided he wanted to focus on helping others in his community battle this terrible disease.

Oscar became involved with several different organizations in South Toms River. With his own journey in mind, he helped create the South Toms River Alcoholics Anonymous, the South Toms River Narcotics Anonymous, and the South Toms River Neighborhood Watch Committee. But his work didn't stop there - he recently founded the South Toms River Historical Society to help preserve the history of this great town. At Wells Chapel AME Church, Oscar has been ordained as a Reverend and helped to create the church's Community Outreach Center. Additionally, Oscar has served his community as an elected member of the South Toms River Borough Council for seven terms and was elected as the town's mayor on November 4, 2014.

Oscar's dedication to improving the lives of those around him is remarkable. Mr. Speaker, we are all blessed to know Oscar, and are grateful for the impact that he has made in our community. South Toms River would not be the same without him.